Joe Schall is a well-reputed voice in the fellowships advising world and has an abundance of resources available for you as you think about preparing for an application for an academic fellowship.

- We encourage you to NOT look at the essay samples he provides during your own drafting process, as it is amazing how another voice can seep into your own writing subconsciously. Authenticity is key here.

Read Chapter 1. Do note that there are several tabs for Chapter 1 at the bottom of the page.

The Director of the Office of Student Fellowships at Santa Clara University, Leilani Miller, has her fellowship students go through a course when applying for fellowships.

- In the homework for Week 2 of the course, she asks her students to consider the following after reading Chapter 1 of the Schall text. "Who are you? What are you best at? What accomplishment are you most proud of? Why are you here? Where are you going? What do you want? When you are done, comment on how writing (as opposed to speaking) shaped this version.” In many advising sessions with Yale-NUS CIPE staff, we think through many of these ideas informally during advising sessions. So what’s the key distinction? She then asks students to keep thinking, asking them to “comment also on what difference the different audience made to your introduction.”
- In our advising sessions at CIPE, it is the advisor and the student.
- For your personal statement, you are addressing a different audience.
- How can you present your authentic self while still being aware of a new and more distant audience? It’s a challenge. Drafting will help you uncover that balanced tone.

Please read the Schall text, then answer Miller’s questions in italics above in a 1–2 page response. Upon completion, please send to Charlotte Evans (charlotte.evans@yale-nus.edu.sg) to continue this discussion.

DEADLINE

Students encouraged to complete by February if they plan to apply to a programs in the following academic year.